

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHARTER COMMISSION TO HOLD FINAL COMMUNITY MEETING
IN HAWAII KAI**

Public input helps Commissioners prepare for next round of voting

HONOLULU, HAWAII, March 30, 2006

The 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission will hold its third and final community meeting on Tuesday evening in Hawaii Kai. Following the Kailua and Kapolei community meetings, the Commission will continue gathering public input on proposed changes to the City Charter. The public is invited to participate:

**Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.
Hahaione Elementary School - Cafeteria
595 Pepeekeo Street in Hawaii Kai**

“At the Kailua and Kapolei meetings, the Commission heard testimony from a wide range of perspectives – elected officials, city employees, representatives of organizations, and residents. We look forward to additional input at the Hawaii Kai meeting,” said Commission Chair Donn Takaki.

Chair Takaki continued, “Coming up in April and May, the Commission will vote on which proposals will be put on the November ballot. In order to make those important decisions, the Commissioners really value input from the public. As this is only the fourth time since 1972 that a Charter Commission has been convened, we hope our fellow citizens will take this rare opportunity to suggest improvements to how our city is governed. We all want our City Charter to serve Honolulu well.”

At the community meeting, there will be a short presentation regarding the charter revision process and the proposals under consideration. The public will then have the opportunity to provide their comments to the Commissioners.

LEARN ABOUT THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS. Copies of all proposals are posted as PDF files on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>. Hard copies are also available for viewing at the Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485, or the Municipal Library in the City Council Annex at 558 S. King Street.

Out of 108 proposals submitted to the Commission, 42 proposals remain under consideration. The proposals include the following:

- 10 proposals regarding city departments and directors’ duties
- 3 proposals on elections, Council districts, and term limits
- 7 proposals on the City’s planning and zoning process
- 2 proposals on the Neighborhood Commission and Neighborhood Boards
- 2 proposals on the City budget process
- 5 proposals on ethics and open government
- 3 proposals to establish new agencies and funds
- 4 proposals regarding City Council procedures
- 6 “housekeeping” measures

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings and provide testimony. Register to speak by calling 592-8622 or emailing charter@honolulu.gov, or fill out a sign-up form upon arrival at the meeting. Written testimony can be sent by mail to the

Charter Commission, 711 Kapiolani Boulevard, Suite 1485, Honolulu, HI 96813; by fax to 592-8633; and by e-mail to charter@honolulu.gov. See official agendas posted on the Commission website for more information regarding testimony.

NEXT STEPS. Following the three community meetings, the Commission will meet again in April or May to vote on all proposals. Those that pass will be referred to the Commission's Committee on Style, which will prepare amendments and finalized language for the Commission's final approval in summer 2006. Ultimately, the finalized proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voters' approval.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

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